

Arabic (in the Hebrew script)

Letters of the Alphabet

Arabic	Hebrew	Transliteration
ا	א	'
ب	ב	b
ت	ת	t
ث	ת	ṯ (th)
ج	ג	ğ (j)
ح	ח	ḥ
خ	כ (final ך)	x (kh)
د	ד	d
ذ	ד	ḏ (dh)
ر	ר	r
ز	ז	z
س	ס	s
ش	ש	š (sh)
ص	צ (final ץ)	ṣ
ض	-	ḍ (see notes)
ط	ט	ṭ
ظ	-	ḍ (see notes)
ع	ע	'
غ	ג	ğ (gh)

ف	פ (final ף)	f
ق	ק	q
ك	כ (final ך)	k
ل	ל	l
م	מ (final ם)	m
ن	נ (final ן)	n
ه ، ة	ת ، ת	h, t (see notes)
و	ו	w
ي	י	y

Vowels and Diphthongs

آ	א	'a	آ	א	'ā	أ	א	ā (á)
إ	א	'i	إي	אי	'ī	او	א	aw (aū)
أ	א	'u	أو	א	'ū	اي	אי	ay (aī)

Letters Representing Non-Arabic Consonants

This list is not exhaustive. It should be noted that a letter in this group may have more than one phonetic value, depending on the country or area where it is used, and that the transliteration will vary accordingly.

گ	ג	g	چ	תְּשׁ	c (ch)	پ	פ	p
گ	ג	g	ج	תְּשׁ	c (ch)	ف	ב	v
ق	ג	g	ژ	זְשׁ	ž (zh)	پ	ב	v

Notes

1. *Alif* for the support of *hamzah* is not represented in the transliteration, see notes.
2. The *Maghrebi* variations of ف and ق are transliterated פ *f* and ק *q* respectively.
3. *Tā' Marbūṭah* ة in a word in the construct state is transliterated ת *t*.
4. The emphatic consonants, ض *ḍād* and ظ *ḍā'*, have no Hebrew equivalent.

Therefore, ض *ḍād* is transliterated as ד, whilst ظ *ḍā'* maybe represented by ד or

ז, i.e., أرض 'arḍ > ארד or ארז, ظهير dahīr > דהיר or זהיר.

RULES OF APPLICATION

ا (*Alif*)

May be used in the following:

To represent all initial vowels, short and long, expressed only through ا as indicated in the table.

'ab	أب	אב
'idā	إذا	אדא
'uns	أنس	אנס
'ālah	آلة	אלה
'īmān	إيمان	אימן
'ulā	أولى	אולא

When medial or final position, *alif* by default denotes the long vowel ā. However, ā can not be expressed through א, and is transliterated instead as ַ respectively.

fā'il	فاعل	פּעל
bāb	باب	בּב
saḥāb	سحاب	סחב
danā	دنا	דנא

و (*Wāw*)

As indicated in the table, و may represent:

The transliterated consonant ו *w*, respectively.

waḍ'	وضع	וּדע
'iwaḍ	عوض	עוּד
naḥw	نحو	נחוי

The long vowel *ū* transliterated ُو.

'uqiyyah	أوقية	אוקיה
'ūd	عود	עוד
ṣūrah	صورة	צורה
'abū	أبو	אבו

The diphthong *aw* is transliterated َو.

'awğ	أوج	אוג
yawm	يوم	יום
law	لو	לו

ي (Yā')

As indicated in the table, ي may represent:

The transliterated consonant ُ y, respectively.

yad	يد	יד
ḥiyal	حیل	חיל
kay	כי	כי

The long vowel *ī* is transliterated ِي.

'īdān	إيدان	איִדן
'īd	عيد	עיד
fīl	فيل	פיל
fī	في	פי

The diphthong *aī* (ay) is transliterated ِي, respectively.

'aīsar	أيسر	איִסר
šaīx	شيخ	שייך
'aīnay	عيني	עיני

A final dotless *yā'* ى, or *alif dagger* denotes the long vowel *ā* (á) and is transliterated as ַ.

'ilā	إلى	אלַ
'alā	على	עלַ
ḥattā	حتى	חַתַּ
musammā	مسمى	מַסְמַ
muṣṭafā	مصطفى	מַצְטַפַּ

The Transliteration of Arabic Orthographic Symbols

The signs listed below are frequently omitted from unvocalized Arabic writing and printing; their presence or absence must then be inferred. They are represented in transliteration according to the following rules:

ء *Hamzah*

(a) *Hamzah* is supported on the three semivowels (أ, إ, ئ, ؤ), and is not represented in the transliteration.

(b) When medial or final position, *hamzah* is transliterated as ʾ (*alif*), respectively.

dā'im	دائم	דאָם
Yū'īl	يُوئِيل	יוֹאֵיל
mas'alah	مسألة	מַסְאַלָה
ra's	رأس	ראס
mu'min	مؤمن	מאָמין
šay'	شيء	שׂיֵא
xaṭi'a	خطئ	כַּטָּא

آ *Maddah*

(a) The initial long vowel *ā* is represented by the sign *maddah* ̄ and is transliterated as ʾā, respectively.

'āmīn	آمِين	אַמִּין
'ānas	آنس	אַנֶס

(b) When medial, it represents the combination of two *alif*'s written in one *alif* with the sign *maddah*, representing thus the long vowel in sequence 'ā transliterated as ʾā.

Qur'ān	قرآن	קוראַן
ra'āh	رآه	ראַה

ّ *Šaddah (Tašdīd)*

(a) Two occurring consonants are represented by a single consonant bearing the sign *šaddah* ّ, indicating prolongation. In the transliteration, *šaddah* is represented by the Hebrew sign *dāḡēš*.

šawwāl	شَوَّال	שׁוּוּל
'allam	عَلَّمَ	עללם
ḥaḡḡ	حَجَّ	חג

'umm	أُمُّ	אַם
sayyid	سَيِّد	סַיִד
'ayyām	أَيَّام	אַיַם

(b) In the *nisbah*, if the final vowel (grammatical case) is not found on the suffix *ي* -*yy*, then the suffix is transliterated as *י* -*ī*, despite the presence of the sign *šaddah*.

miṣriyyu	مِصْرِيّ	מִצְרִי	changes to	miṣrī	مِصْرِي	מִצְרִי
'iraqiyyu	عِرَاقِيّ	עִרְקִי	changes to	'irāqī	عِرَاقِي	עִרְקִי

(c) *Allāh* 'God', also bears *dāḡēš* in the transliteration.

'Allāh	اللَّهُ	אַלְלָה
bil-lāh	بِاللَّهُ	בַּאֲלָה
lil-lāh	لِللَّهُ	לָלָה
bismi l-lāh	بِسْمِ اللَّهِ	בִּסְם אֲלָה

(d) Other than transliterating double consonants via *dāḡēš*. When a final *h* is followed by a grammatical suffix (or vowel), *dāḡēš* is written to indicate that *h* is not silent but fully pronounced.

lahu	لَهُ	לָהּ
ma'ahu	مَعَهُ	מֵעֵה
bihi	بِهِ	בִּהּ

Sukūn

When the preceding consonant is not followed by a vowel, the sign *sukūn* ^{◌ْ} is written above the letter to indicate the absence of vowel, thus *sukūn* is transliterated as *schwa* ^{◌◌}.

'aḥmad	أَحْمَد	אַחְמַד
nafs	نَفْس	נַפְס
šams	شَمْس	שְׁמַס
'ahl	أَهْل	אַהְל

Alif Maqṣūrah

Other than *alif*, the long vowel *ā* may be expressed by the superscript *alif* ^{◌َ} *maṣqūrah* ^{◌َ}, and is transliterated as ^{◌◌}.

'ilāh	إِلَهِ	אַלְה
-------	--------	-------

dālik	ذَٰلِكَ	דָּלֵךְ
hāḏā	هَٰذَا	הֵדָא
hāḏihi	هَٰذِهِ	הֵדִיה
lākin	لَٰكِنْ	לָכֵן

Waṣlah

When a word ends in a vowel (grammatical suffix) and the latter is followed by the definite article 'al-. The pronunciation of the final vowel is elided with the definite article, meaning, the vowel in 'al- is not pronounced and the sign *waṣlah* is written above *alif* ʾ., i.e.,

bābu l-qaṣri بَابُ الْقَصْرِ

However, there is no sign in Hebrew equivalent to the *waṣlah*, therefore, the final vowel (grammatical case suffix) is written but the *alif* in the definite article is left unmarked and unpronounced.

'Abū l-ʿĀfiyah	أَبُو الْعَافِيَةِ	אָבוּ אֶלְעֶפִיָּה
'akala l-waladu ṭ-ṭa'āma	أَكَلَ الْوَلَدُ الطَّعَامَ	אָכַל אֶלְוֹלָדוֹ אֶלְטַעַם
šaraḥu l-'ustāḏu d-darsa	شَرَحَ الْأُسْتَاذُ الدَّرْسَ	שָׂרַח אֶלְאַסְתָּד אֶלְדָּרָס

Tanwīn

(a) There are three signs that mark the indefinite forms in nouns and adjectives, following the grammatical case and are transliterated as follows:

Nominative	-un	ـُ	ן־
Accusative	-an	ـَ	ן=
Genitive	-in	ـِ	ן-

(b) However, there are no equivalent sign in Hebrew, and instead are fully written, thus:

qawmun	قَوْمٌ	קוֹמִן
waladan	وَلَدًا	וֹלָדִן
maṭarin	مَطَرٍ	מִטְרִין

(c) Nouns and adjectives that carry the indefinite accusative form always bear an orthographic *alif* (silent *alif*). However, this is not carried over in the transliteration.

(d) For nouns ending in *Tā' Marbūṭah* and must carry *tanwīn*, see notes.

The transliteration of Arabic and Foreign Names

Foreign words which occur in an Arabic context and are written in Arabic letters are transliterated according to the rules for transliterating Arabic.

Germanus	Ġarmānūs	جارمانوس	גֶּרְמָנוּס
Vivaldi	Fīfāldī	فيفالدي	פִּיפֹלְדִי
Picasso	Bīkāsū	بيكاسو	בִּיקָסוֹ
Isagoge	ʿĪsāġūġī	إيساغوجي	אִיסָגוּגִי

Names of Biblical figures of Hebrew origin remain unchanged in Arabic as well in the transliteration.

Abraham	ʿIbrāhīm	إبراهيم	אַבְרָהִים
Ishmael	ʿIsmāʿīl	إسماعيل	אַסְמַעִיל
Isaac	ʿIshāq	إسحاق	אַסְחָק
Moses	Mūsā	موسى	מוֹסֶה
Mary	Maryam	مريم	מַרְיָם
Joseph	Yūsuf	يوسف	יוֹסֵף
Jonah	Yūnus	يونس	יוֹנָס
Solomon	Sulāīmān	سليمان	סְלִימָן

Qurʾānic names in correlation with Biblical names are transliterated according to Arabic rules of orthography.

Jesus	ʿĪsā	عيسى	עִיסָא
John	Yaḥyā	يحيى	יַחְיָא
Jethro	Šuʿaṭb	شعيب	שַׁעִיב
Saul	Ṭālūt	طالوت	טָלוּת

Qurʾānic names drawn from Mystic letters are retained in the transliteration.

Ṭāhā	طه	טָה
Yāsīn	يسن	יָסִן

Tāʾ Marbūṭah

(a) Feminine nouns and adjectives in Arabic end in ة.

(b) When a grammatical case or suffix is added to ة, it is pronounced like *t*, and is transliterated as ת followed by the suffix.

walīdatu	واليدة	וּלִידַת
xalīfatun	خليفة	כְּלִיפַתַּן

(c) When ʾ is not pronounced, it is transliterated as ה -ah, respectively.

madīnah	مدينة	מדינה
qaryah	قرية	קרִיָה

Bibliography

Alqarhi, Awaad (2019). *Arabic Phonology*. Sciedu Press.
<https://doi.org/10.5430/elr.v8n4p9>

Moallef. *The Arabic Alphabet: A Guide to the Phonology and Orthography of MSA and Lebanese Arabic*. Lebanese Arabic Institute: Beirut.

Further Reading and Resources

ALA-LC Romanization Tables. Library of Congress.

Abu-Chacra, Faruk. *An Essential Grammar: Arabic*. 2nd ed.,
New York: Routledge, 2018.

C. Ryding, Karin. *A Reference Grammar of Modern Standard Arabic*.
University of Cambridge Press, 2005.